MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Halla Henderson, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: Y. Carrillo, C. Franco, E. Valliant, H. Henderson, U. Ward, J. Vue, C. Allen
Superintendent Gothard

C. Long, General Counsel; S. Dahlke, Assistant Clerk

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of the order of the main agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:
Director Carrillo    Yes
Director Franco    Yes
Director Valliant    Yes
Director Valliant    Yes
Director Henderson    Yes
Director Ward    Yes
Director Vue    Yes
Director Allen    Yes

4. RECOGNITIONS

BF 33572 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

1. Dr. Abisalam Adam, SPPS principal and former Fridley Public Schools School Board Member, received the Lighthouse Award from the Minnesota School Board Directors of Color and Indigenous (MNSBDCI) at the annual Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) Annual Leadership Conference on January 11, 2024.

The Lighthouse Award is an annual award given to one Black, Indigenous or Person of Color, Public School Superintendent and one Public School Board Member that has demonstrated a
commitment to racial equity in their district; this person has served as a beacon of light and hope in the journey toward racial justice in education for all students.

Dr. Adam was chosen as the 2023 School Board Lighthouse winner because he is “a proven bridge-builder among communities and has special keenness for student achievement and equitable programming in schools. He has been with Saint Paul Public Schools since 1997 as a teacher, community specialist, and administrator and is currently the principal of the newly established East African Elementary Magnet School. Dr. Adam has served on the Fridley School Board from 2018-2023 and has been a voice for BIPOC inclusion.”

The Minnesota School Board Directors of Color and Indigenous is a fellowship group comprised of various school board members from the state of Minnesota. Their mission is, “fostering excellence in good governance, supporting effective leadership, and preparing school board members from diverse communities to champion high-quality public education, while acknowledging the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of Minnesota students and families.” The group was formed in 2016 and meets monthly.

2. Saint Paul Public Schools is home to more than 25 currently certified National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT). NBCT teachers comprise fewer than 5% of all teachers nationwide. This prestigious honor requires teachers and counselors to do a thorough analysis of their practice and engage in rigorous reflection on the impact they have on students’ learning. The certification is valid for five years from the date of initial certification, and must be renewed every five years through a maintenance of certification process to ensure that the educators continue to bring accomplished excellence to their classrooms and beyond.

The following educators represent the group that received certification in December 2022; as well as December 2023.

**December 2022:**
- **Keela Kuhlers**, Saint Paul Music Academy, School Counseling/Early Childhood
- **Anna Parvi**, Humboldt High School, English As A New Language/Early Adolescence Through Young Adulthood
- **Eugenia Popa**, Harding Senior High, English As A New Language/Early Adolescence Through Young Adulthood
- **Suzanne Scheuerlein**, Humboldt High School, Mathematics/Early Adolescence

**December 2023:**
- **Susanne Maldonado**, Harding Senior High, English Language Arts/Adolescence And Young Adulthood
- **Julia Shepherd**, Harding Senior High, English Language Arts/Adolescence And Young Adulthood
- **Jamie Thompson**, Harding Senior High, Science/Adolescence And Young Adulthood

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was established in 1987, with the goal of recognizing accomplished educational practitioners. As a result, the National Board Certification process was developed. National Board Certification is the most respected professional certificate in the United States for Teachers, Counselors, and Library/Media Specialists, and the only certification to recognize accomplished teaching in the nation.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Olive Mulligan-Locket  Extra support for students and teachers at GAP
2. Sara Nelson  Issues at GAP
3. Yia Thao  Txuj Ci Lower
4. Lisa Zinnel  Concerns re: Global Arts Plus
5. Kira Appelhans  Communication and student safety at child’s school
6. Thomas Lucy  SPPS and Environmental Sustainability efforts
7. Casey Ulrich  Climate commitments
8. Leah VanDassor  SPFE mediation
9. Sabrina Mauritz  Support for SPFE bargaining and climate action
10. William Hill  Systemic Equity and Positive School/District culture
11. Ber Yang  Txuj Ci Lower
12. Alli Kildahl  Colleague support
13. Mee Moua  Txuj Ci and HPAC
14. Steve Ormat  Support for SPFE
15. Claire Linesh  Healthy communities and collective actions; support for SPFE

6. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with item 2-f, Request to Authorize American Rescue Plan (ARP) FY 2023-24 Awards for Community Partners Request for Proposal (RFP) A22-2156 FY 2022-24, pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:
- Director Carrillo  Yes
- Director Franco  Yes
- Director Valliant  Yes
- Director Henderson  Yes
- Director Ward  Yes
- Director Vue  Yes
- Director Allen  Yes

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of December 19, 2023
B. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of December 19, 2023
C. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Education of January 9, 2024

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of December 19, 2023; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of December 19, 2023; and the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Education of January 9, 2024. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:
- Director Carrillo  Yes
- Director Franco  Yes
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of January 9, 2024

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on January 9, 2024, Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a brief update on the return of yellow buses, including to Como Park Senior High School following Winter Break. Board members thanked him and the team for their work, and in listening to the concerns of families on this issue.

The first presentation focused on the Upcoming Certificates of Participation Sale of Bonds, including background information, requirements, information on Review and Comment for future projects, next steps for the Certificates of Participation sale, and the school construction projects that will be funded by this sale of COPs. Discussion on this presentation included questions on the timeline of the results of the sale, and the interest rates.

The next presentation included discussion of the SPPS proposed 2024 legislative agenda. Included within the agenda are items such as:

- Legislative agenda items from the 2023 Agenda which were not enacted.
- “Clean” up provisions relating to 2023 Legislative enactments.
- New Policy Provisions annotated to indicate alignment with AMSD
- New Finance Provisions

Discussion on this presentation included the need for a long-term budget to offset equity problems, clarifying language on the use of physical restraints, and further information on the hold harmless discussion. Questions also focused on the vision to build beyond the gaps that are being filled, and questions around how the district can work with our partners and legislatures, as well as frustration in continuing to only see the holes being filled, and we need to ask at what point is the expectation that revenue streams will be sustainable and efficient. Further clarification was also provided on the Minnesota Department of Health and Medicaid items within the agenda, as well as questions around the formulas and modeling of the metrics, including those formulas that may not include factors such as housing and fuel prices. Board members also requested information around unemployment insurance and other unfunded mandates, and future communications on this topic. Discussion also included ways in which board members can help to advocate through their relationships with other elected officials and approaching situations on school-related issues that may not be on the proposed agenda. Board members also requested to be informed about conversations in order to leverage their power in this area and at the legislature.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, the Board conducted a work session regarding the planning of an upcoming Board Retreat.

MOTION: Director Ward moved to accept the report on the December 5, 2023 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.
The motion was approved by roll call vote:
- Director Carrillo  Yes
- Director Franco  Yes
- Director Valliant  Yes
- Director Henderson  Yes
- Director Ward  Yes
- Director Vue  Yes
- Director Allen  Yes

9. **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

   A. **Board of Education Meetings (5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted)**

   - 2024
     - February 20
     - March 19
     - April 23
     - May 21
     - June 11 (Special Meeting – Non-Renewals) | 4:00 p.m. | Conference Room 5A
     - June 18
     - July 16
     - August 20
     - September 17
     - October 22
     - November 19
     - December 17

   B. **Committee of the Board Meetings (4:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted)**

   - 2024
     - February 6
     - March 6 - Wednesday
     - April 3 - Wednesday
     - May 7
     - June 11
     - August 7 – Wednesday
     - September 10
     - October 8
     - November 6 – Wednesday
     - December 3

10. **SUPERINTENDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Superintendent Gothard began the meeting by highlighting Black History Month, and that SPPS sponsors, honors, and celebrates National African-American Parent Involvement Day. He encouraged the Board and community to visit the website at [www.spps.org/naapid](http://www.spps.org/naapid), which includes the history of this important day. He encouraged parents and families to visit their child’s school, see their school day, and support their educational future. He also reviewed an overview of NAAPID, including to promote parent and family involvement, address the achievement gap, promote and provide strategies of education for PreK to college. He shared information about the district-sponsored events, including the events on Monday,
February 12th at Benjamin E. Mays Elementary School, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with space and activities for all, and it will be a great event to celebrate our students.

He also provided a brief update on College Bound Saint Paul, and the City’s effort to create a $50 college savings account for all children born in Saint Paul. The first cohort of children is now entering PreK, and he noted an update by SPPS at a recent fundraising meeting by Carita Green and Beth Coleman in our Office of Teaching and Learning. College Bound Saint Paul almost completely aligns with SPPS Achieves and our Personalized Learning Plans, and how to serve students in the district. He provided his own experiences as a first-generation college student, and to think about how a community can believe in our children, and their hopes and dreams. He encouraged all to attend both the NAAPID event, as well as become involved with College Bound Saint Paul to inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.

Director Henderson noted this is wonderful work and she is happy to hear this update about College Bound Saint Paul. Director Franco noted he is also interested in College Bound Saint Paul and is interested in our plans and continued partnership for financial empowerment, collaboration, and wealth-building in the PreK-12 curriculum, and is interested to hear further updates.

11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding item 2-f, Request to Authorize American Rescue Plan (ARP) FY 2023-24 Awards for Community Partners Request for Proposal (RFP) A22-2156 FY 2022-24, for separate consideration. Director Ward seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Carrillo     Yes
Director Franco      Yes
Director Valliant   Yes
Director Henderson  Yes
Director Ward        Yes
Director Vue        Yes
Director Allen       Yes

1. Gifts

BF 33573    Acceptance of Gift from MN Vikings

That the Board approve the funds from MN Vikings in the amount of $10,000.00 to be used on students’ supplies, field trips, etc.

BF 33574    Acceptance of Donation to Highland Park Middle School

That the Board authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donated gift of $5,000.00 to Highland Park Middle School.

2. Grants
BF 33575  Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Ecolab Foundation

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Ecolab Foundation to support relationship building for teachers through team building activities as well as transportation support; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33576  Request for Permission to Submit Applications to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ No Child Left Inside Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit grants to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ No Child Left Inside grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33577  Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education’s National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education’s National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33578  Resolution Supporting the City of Saint Paul’s Application for a MN Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to support this resolution alongside the City of Saint Paul’s application to the MN Department of Transportation’s Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant.

BF 33579  Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Lillian Wright and C. Emil Berglund Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Lillian Wright and C. Emil Berglund Foundation and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

BF 33580  Adjusting Total Budget Amount for Pro-Care Contract

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the proposed amendments to the contract with ProCare Therapy.

BF 33581  Request to sign the Amendment to the Minnesota State University - Mankato and SPPS Contract pertaining to School Counseling Interns and Practicum Students

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Amendment to Contract #22-1548 between Saint Paul Public Schools and MSU-Mankato.

BF 33582  Approval for a Contract that Exceeds $175,000 with Truity Partners LLC
That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to execute a contract amendment to add $175,000 to the existing contract with Truity Partners LLC and extend the term to 12/31/2024.

4. Agreements

**BF 33583** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with Grand Canyon University

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Student Teaching Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Grand Canyon University.

**BF 33584** Request to Sign the Memorandum of Understanding between 3M and SPPS pertaining to the STEP Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with 3M.

**BF 33585** Request to Sign the Agreement between Keystone Community Services and SPPS

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Agreement with Keystone Services.

**BF 33586** Request to authorize Memorandum of Understanding between Independent School District No. 625 and the St. Paul Federation of Educators, exclusive representative for members of the Licensed Staff Bargaining Unit, Educational Assistant Bargaining Unit, and Community Support Professionals Bargaining Unit

That the Board of Education approve and adopts the E-Learning Plan as presented.

5. Administrative Items

**BF 33587** Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period November 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023

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Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of $44,832,957.32 and overtime of $262,334.36 or 0.59% of payroll.

(d) Collateral Changes

Released: None
That the Board of Education further authorize payment of properly certified cash disbursements including payrolls, overtime schedules, compensation claims, and claims under the Worker's Compensation Law falling within the period ending May 31, 2024.

BF 33588 Recommendations for Exclusion of Students Non-Compliant with Minnesota Statute 121A.15 Health Standards: Immunizations

That the Board of Education exclude noncompliant student(s) from school(s) effective January 31, 2024, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

Human Resources Transactions

BF 33589 Transactions for December 1 – December 31, 2023

BF 33590 Facilities Department FY24 Purchases over $175,000

That the Board of Education authorize the purchases listed for the Facilities Department anticipated to be over $175,000.

BF 33591 Minnesota Department of Education Review and Comment – Farnsworth Aerospace Upper HVAC Replacement (Project # 1030-23-01)

That the Board of Education sign the Review and Comment Checklist Attachment 1 and authorize the Executive Director of Operations and Administration to submit the Farnsworth Aerospace Upper HVAC Replacement (Project # 1030-23-01) review and comment document to the Minnesota Department of Education for evaluation and authorization of the work.

BF 33592 Phase Gate Approval of the FY24 Flooring Replacement Program at Johnson High School, Farnsworth Upper, and Battle Creek Middle School (Project # 0225-24-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the FY24 Flooring Replacement Program at Johnson High School, Farnsworth Upper, and Battle Creek Middle School project (Project # 0225-24-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at $2,100,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 33593 Phase Gate Approval of the Plumbing Plus project at Wheelock Early Learning Center, Eastern Heights Elementary, L'Etoile du Nord Upper, Groveland Elementary, Hubbs Center, Focus Beyond, John A. Johnson, Griffin Stadium, Dayton's Bluff, Highwood Hills, and Student Placement Center (Project # 0551-23-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Plumbing Plus project at Wheelock Early Learning Center, Eastern Heights Elementary, L'Etoile du Nord Upper, Groveland Elementary, Hubbs Center, Focus Beyond, John A. Johnson, Griffin Stadium, Dayton's Bluff, Highwood Hills, and Student Placement Center project (Project # 0551-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at $1,765,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 33594 Phase Gate Approval of the FY24 A/V Replacement Program at Washington Technology Magnet and Journeys Secondary School (Project # 0680-24-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget
That the Board of Education approve the FY24 A/V Replacement Program at Washington Technology Magnet and Journeys Secondary School project (Project # 0680-24-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at $2,500,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

6. Bids

**BF 33595**  Phase Gate Approval of the Como Park Senior Athletics (Project # 4110-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4336-JG for the Como Park Senior Athletics project (Project # 4110-23-01) to Bituminous Roadways, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $341,768.

**BF 33596**  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Senior High Athletic Improvements (Project # 3082-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award for General Contracting

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4335-JG for the Highland Park Senior High Athletic Improvements project (Project # 3082-23-01) to Peterson Companies for a lump sum base bid of $2,886,800.

**BF 33597**  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Senior High Athletic Improvements (Project # 3082-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award for Paving

That the Board of Education approve the award of paving for the track surfacing and artificial turf for the Highland Park Senior High Athletic Improvements project (Project # 3082-23-01) to Bituminous Roadways, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $289,218.

**BF 33598**  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Senior High Athletic Improvements (Project # 3082-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award for Track Surfacing and Artificial Turf

That the Board of Education approve the award of track surfacing and artificial turf for the Highland Park Senior High Athletic Improvements project (Project # 3082-23-01) to FieldTurf USA for a lump sum base bid of $1,131,819.

**BF 33599**  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 0330 (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4181-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Northland Concrete and Masonry, LLC for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #1 of $1,384,200.

**BF 33600**  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 03A (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4297-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to B&D Associates for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #7 of $2,417,300.

**BF 33601**  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 05A (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award
That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4298-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to JRK Steel, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $750,788.

BF 33602  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 05B (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4299-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to High Five Erectors II, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $565,750.

BF 33603  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 06A (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4300-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Reiling Construction Company, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $1,108,228.

BF 33604  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 07F (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4301-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Nordstrom Architectural Sheet Metal for a lump sum base bid of $1,777,000.

BF 33605  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 08A (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4304-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Bredemus Hardware Company, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $378,829.

BF 33606  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 08F (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4305-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Envision Glass, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $1,599,000.

BF 33607  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 09A (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4306-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Mulcahy Nickolaus, LLC for a lump sum base bid of $1,342,800.

BF 33608  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 09B (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4308-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to CD Tile and Stone, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $661,000.
BF 33609  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 09C (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4308-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Twin City Acoustics, Inc for a lump sum base bid of $702,968.

BF 33610  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 09D (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4309-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Henricksen & Company, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $1,033,000.

BF 33611  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 09K (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4312-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Mulcahy Nickolaus, LLC for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #7 of $303,937.

BF 33612  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 11F (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4313-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to South-Town, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $1,136,493.

BF 33613  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 21A (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4314-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Nasseff Mechanical Contractors, Inc for a lump sum base bid of $339,500.

BF 33614  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 23B (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4315-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Thelen Heating & Roofing, Inc for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #4 of $3,841,000.

BF 33615  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 26A (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4316-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to NAC Mechanical and Electrical Services for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 of $2,900,000.

BF 33616  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 31A (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award
That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4317-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Rachel Contracting, LLC for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #7 of $1,201,000.

**BF 33617**  Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 32A (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4319-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Park Construction Company for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #7 of $491,042.

**BF 33618**  Phase Gate Approval of the Maxfield Elementary Playground Replacement (Project #4180-24-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of playground equipment and surfacing for the Maxfield Elementary Playground Replacement project (Project #4180-24-01) to Flagship Recreation for a lump sum base bid of $316,629.

**BF 33619**  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0330 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4181-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Northland Concrete and Masonry, LLC for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #1 of $1,384,200.

**BF 33620**  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0420 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4182-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Restoration and Construction, LLC for a lump sum base bid plus of $650,000.

**BF 33621**  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0510 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4183-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to High Five Erectors II, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $521,575.

**BF 33622**  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0750 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4187-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Central Roofing for a lump sum base bid of $1,989,150.

**BF 33623**  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0790 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4188-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Carciofini Company for a lump sum base bid of $388,700.
BF 33624  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0810 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4189-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Bredemus Hardware, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $1,090,747.

BF 33625  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0840 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4191-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Northern Glass & Glazing for a lump sum base bid of $929,000.

BF 33626  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0920 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4192-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Commercial Drywall, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $2,886,550.

BF 33627  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0930 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4193-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Grazzini Brothers and Company for a lump sum base bid of $839,500.

BF 33628  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0990 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4198-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Steinbrecher Painting Company for a lump sum base bid of $603,800.

BF 33629  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 1140 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4200-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Culinex for a lump sum base bid of $786,903.

BF 33630  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 3100 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4208-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Urban Companies, LLC for a lump sum base bid of $669,000.

BF 33631  Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 3210 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award
That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4208-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to McNamara Contracting, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $177,000.

BF 33632 Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 3290 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4209-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Peterson Companies, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $220,400.

BF 33633 Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 3300 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4210-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to St. Paul Utilities and Excavating, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of $327,000.

BF 33634 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 27B, 28A & 28B (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the combined award of Bid No. A24-4017-JG, A24-4018-JG, & A24-4019 for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Pulse Electric for a lump sum base bid of $655,309.

7. Change Orders

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

BF 33635 Request to Authorize American Rescue Plan (ARP) FY 2023-24 Awards for Community Partners Request for Proposal (RFP) A22-2156 FY 2022-24

It was noted that Director Franco pulled this item for separate discussion. He appreciates the district’s investment in community organizations and recognizes the partnership we hold in the space is important and the ways in which we leverage partnerships within the community. He appreciated the work and recognizes it in this large-scale investment and grant management that is impressive to our school district, and thanked the team for their work in this space over the last two years. He noted that he does intend on voting yes on this item, but does have a few questions.

He noted questions on an update on the list of current awardees included in the original RFP, and a brief overview of that process and those details. Superintendent Gothard provided context on this topic, and ways in which this additional funding will be used to both address math and literacy in SPPS with the additional funds, as well as wanting to help the community to help the district, which led to the creation of the Office of Innovation. It was not only important to the District to help our community organizations, but was also personal to Dr. Gothard, as he serves on board and knows their struggles, and the benefits that these funds could provide to them, as well as to our students.

Chief Turner noted that the community agencies included in this item are being brought to the Board for several reasons – some of them have grants that increased, or some may have decreased, and some have shown capacity to show more support for more students, or increase in the number of schools they can
serve. Some organizations may have decreased as they didn’t have capacity as detailed within the initial contract, or moved to a smaller group.

After the end of the first fiscal year, which ended June 30, we are meeting with community partners on an ongoing basis and programs, with monitoring in the Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships, with staff supporting our community-based organizations and learning about their capacity. Throughout that process, some agencies requested more, or some were not able to meet the contract terms and needed to modify their contract. There are not additional overall allocations, and we are staying within the allocated funds to community organizations, but contracts are being modified and there are new contracts before the Board. There will also be a full ARP report next month with budgetary details and work of our partners.

Director Franco requested information about the monitoring, and the matrix used to assess each agency. Chief Turner noted that the monitors primarily are looking at capacity and numbers of students served by each, as well as the deliverables originally listed in the contract and the current work. Within finances, we are also able to monitor based on their invoices.

Director Franco also noted he appreciated the want and need to support our community-based agencies, and opportunities to extend the school day. He noted that with the expiration of ARP funds, he wants to ensure there are plans and intentions to determine other ways to support these organizations, and leveraging our existing district resources and longer-standing partnerships to continue to build upon.

Director Franco also requested information on additional allocations for agencies based on the contract. Chief Turner noted that for some of the partners, we went back to the initial process to see if there were gaps in service areas or content areas, or grade levels, subjects, or mental health supports, and went back and increased capacity. There is about $500,000 to reallocate, and that was dispersed to a number of agencies.

Superintendent Gothard noted that the Office of Innovation is taking the larger grant and the structure of it, and that Dana Abrams, Director of Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships, and her team have worked diligently to implement the ability to use these funds and agencies and the district have benefitted from her work, and also thanked Aquanetta Speed, Assistant Director – their work has been outstanding.

Director Vue noted questions around the time for the partners listed in this agenda item to demonstrate their deliverables, or if it will be different based on the progress monitoring. Chief Turner noted the agencies included in this agenda item are believed to have capacity to increase services, or adding additional schools or students to their caseload or activities, and have the capacity to complete the deliverables in the allotted time until September 2024, as some summer activities are included as well.

Director Carrillo noted questions about the mechanisms to understand ways in which the money is being spent and handled. Superintendent Gothard noted that it is an invoice reimbursement process, and the invoice is based on the deliverables outlined in the contract. Invoices may asked to be revised and resubmitted as well.

Director Henderson noted questions about what we have learned or bringing forward in the future to ensure our needs are realistic and grounded in the capacity of our partners. Administration responded that there is an after-action with our community-based agencies, and with Office of Innovation, Finance, and OFECP,
and reviewing what we have learned, including workforce shortages, and a certain level of infrastructure in delivering our resources, and the potential of a grants partner for technical assistance.

MOTION: Director Henderson moved:
1. That the Board of Education accept the Community Partners ARP Grant recipients for the School Year (SY) 2023-24 and Summer 2024.
2. That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to award Community Partners ARP Grant recipients for the School Year (SY) 2023-24 and Summer 2024.
Director Franco seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:
- Director Carrillo Yes
- Director Franco Yes
- Director Valliant Yes
- Director Henderson Yes
- Director Ward Yes
- Director Vue Yes
- Director Allen Yes

FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Discharging Restrictive Covenants In SPPS Property

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Tom Parent, Executive Director of Administration and Operations, to present this topic. The objectives were reviewed, including:
- To share information on the history of restrictive covenants in property titles in St. Paul and how they intersect with property that the school district owns
- To authorize the Superintendent to take the actions necessary to discharge a racial covenant discovered on one of our properties

The definition of restrictive covenants was reviewed, including that restrictive covenants are clauses that were inserted into property deeds to prevent certain people from buying or occupying land based on their race, faith, or nation of origin; were legally enforceable contracts; and embraced by the real estate industry and homeowners across the country.

The history of restrictive covenants was also shared, including that they were first used in Minnesota in 1910, and that Minnesota state laws outlawed new anti-Semitic covenants in 1919; new covenants discriminating against religious faith, creed, race or color in 1953; and all covenants discriminating against protected classes in 1963; as well as the Fair Housing Act of 1968 made all protected class restrictive covenants illegal and unenforceable across the country.

The impacts of restrictive covenants were also shared, including established residential segregation that is still part of our city; and part of creating racialized homeownership, wealth, and health gaps in cities across the country.

A map showing the racial covenants in Ramsey County was also reviewed, including the University of Minnesota has been searing Ramsey County property records since 2020; SPPS has cross-referenced existing database with all of the district properties; two potential instances; and it’s possible that additional covenants could be found in the future.
The first instance reviewed was the property at 631 Albert St. N, which is currently unoccupied, and formerly LEAP High School, and Wilson High School before that. It was acquired by SPPS in 1923, and the covenant states, “No person belonging to any race except the Caucasian, shall purchase or occupy the aforesaid premises or any part thereof.”

The second instance reviewed was the property located at 1557 Huron Street, which is currently Chelsea Heights Elementary, and was acquired by SPPS in 1923. The covenant states “…that grantee can not sell or lease said real estate to a colored person.” In 2004, the covenant was eliminated by county examiner, among several other non-racialized covenants, based on MN Stat 508.71. This only impacted the Torrens property records, and therefore, no SPPS action is needed now.

The Board of Education action requested was then reviewed, including to authorize the Superintendent (or designee) to take administrative action to discharge the restrictive covenant affecting protected classes found in the title of real property located at 631 Albert Street N, as well as further details on this proposed action.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Ward noted his personal, family experience with restrictive covenants, and they are pervasive, malicious, and have done incredible harm, and he appreciated the acknowledgement of the history and work being done to address it.
- He also noted questions if SPPS was aware of the restrictive covenants when the land was initially purchased. Response: Yes, it is in the property titles. As for Thomas Frankson, as mentioned in the presentation, SPPS did not purchase the property directly from him, but there were 1-2 homeowners in which the land was purchased.
- There were also questions raised about if there was anything that SPPS could’ve done at the time of purchasing the property to address, remove, or make right upon purchasing land.
- Director Henderson thanked the team for bringing this forward, and to others for raising this in community and across the country. We spend time talking about how to make sense of how we arrived here for our students, families and community, and there is so much systemically that has kept folks out of places of opportunity, and in spaces that are not designed for People of Color, both intentionally and consistently. While we have come a long ways, there is still a ways to go.
- She also noted information on opportunities for families and homeowners in Saint Paul who are looking to address a restrictive covenant on their home, and if the cost is a constraint, information on how to support folks in that. Response: As an example, the handouts provided at the event at Chelsea Heights have links to the City of Saint Paul, and a sliding scale fee. JustDeeds is a partner organization that can also help with this, and we thank the State and City for facilitation of the process and reducing hurdles for homeowners.
- Director Allen noted her personal experience as a fourth general Rondo child, and her family experience in being red-lined, and the economic and psychological impact. She noted her time in finding justice for Philando Castile and the covenants around Larpenteur Avenue. She noted the racism experienced when folks are displaced, and the elders of Rondo feel very connected to the heart of the Saint Paul Rondo neighborhood, and still do not feel comfortable beyond Larpenteur Downtown. This action will show that SPPS is no longer following the white supremacist behavior and policies, and she is happy to be a part of this, and it is important to her as a fourth-generation Rondo child who attended school at Central, and that we eliminate this covenant and allow for
opportunities for our next generation to be wherever they want to be, whatever they want to be, whenever they want to be.

BF 33636      Discharging Restrictive Covenants In SPPS Property Titles

MOTION: Director Allen moved to approve that the Board authorize the Superintendent (or designee) to take administrative action to discharge the restrictive covenant affecting protected classes found in the title of real property located at 631 Albert Street N. Director Valliant seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:
Director Carrillo               Yes
Director Franco                Yes
Director Valliant              Yes
Director Henderson             Yes
Director Ward                  Yes
Director Vue                   Yes
Director Allen                 Yes

10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. SPPS Program/Initiative Updates and Transitions

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Jackie Turner, Executive Chief of Administration and Operations, to present this topic. New program and initiative updates were reviewed, including Phase 1: Envision SPPS – Well Rounded Education; Phase 2: Envision SPPS – Growing Enrollment; and Phase 3: Onward SPPS – Innovating with Community.

The total systemic impact of Phase 1: Envision SPPS was reviewed, as well as the vote by the Board of Education vote in December 2021, which included the 11 school programs expanded or changed, 1 high school pathway change, and 6 sites available for future programs, community partnerships, early childhood expansion or temporary space during construction or other district needs. The impacts on site changes were also shown, as well as details on sustainable enrollment. Continued monitoring was also reviewed.

Details on Phase 2: Growing Enrollment were also discussed, including the new building for Bruce Vento Elementary opening Fall 2025, as well as East African Elementary Magnet School, details of the School Enrollment and Retention Campaign for SY23-24, family exit survey data, PreK expansion, Nature Discovery PreK, and secondary (9-12) programs for student retention.

Within the review of Phase 3: Onward SPPS, details were shared about the workgroups currently in the planning phase and their draft objectives, including the African American Program Workgroup, Flexible Calendar Year Workgroup, Karen Culture and Language Workgroup, and Tujj CI Facilities Committee. Next steps for Onward SPPS, including continuing to meet with workgroups to develop findings and determine the timeline for program changes and/or implementation; and period updates to the Board of Education and community.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:
• Director Valliant noted questions about Bruce Vento, and since it is moving from a community school to a magnet, if staff will continue to be available to support the Category 3 IEPs. Response: Yes, specialized services will continue at that site.

• Director Carrillo noted a question about the expected enrollment target for Bruce Vento, in order to understand the capacity range. Response: It will be able to house 120 PreK students, and 750 K-5 students.

• Director Allen raised a question about partnerships between the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Bruce Vento Elementary. Response: It is not formalized yet, but there is community engagement to build out and match the new building with a nature-focus.

• Director Ward noted he is excited about the presentation and the work, and his previous experience on the Enrollment and Retention Committee, and the districtwide campaign to market six selected schools, and allocating dollars to help schools boost enrollment and address concerns, and it will be helpful as we move forward to evaluate the effectiveness of that work in future plans.

• Director Ward also requested the full results of the exit surveys, including questions and responses.

• He noted the responsiveness of the District to community concerns, and that is reflected in the programs highlighted and developed to ensure space for everyone. He also noted the recent enrollment press release. Superintendent Gothard also shared more about the recent press release, and when listening to families, good things happen, and we have great leaders in the district as well. He also thanked the enrollment efforts and events organized by Ms. Williams and her staff.

• Director Franco noted the impressive work of the quick movement of the East African Magnet program, and acknowledged the community’s appreciation of that work. He also noted that as a board member from the West Side, he wants to recognize the two West Side elementary schools, and to be supportive in those conversations and to recognize the great work of the principals and he looks forward to engaging in further conversations with them, as well as with community. He noted appreciation and thoughts on how to continue to boost the West Side neighborhood in these conversations.

• Director Carrillo noted the public comment remarks by families at Global Arts Plus and to incorporate conversations into these plans or a platform to address incidents/events that occur throughout the year, and as students, families, and staff may leave that school, and the negative impact on enrollment, and that it takes an entire year for the school to recover its reputation, and encouraged staff to address it immediately and in a way to incorporate community voice.

• Director Henderson noted that in thinking about the Enrollment and Retention campaign, and wondering what supports look like for the next school year, and the impact of individual campaigns on individual schools. She asked what is next in terms of schools and mechanisms to determine qualifications in the campaign. Director Ward provided further details in that there is a criteria for selection, with preference to elementary schools, capacity at the building, and serving a community where there is potential for growth.

• What is the process for schools to advocate for themselves as well? Response: The decisions of schools will be a part of the FY25 budget process, and there will be decisions and deciding priority.

• Director Henderson noted a request for future updates regarding the nature-based PreK program.

• Director Vue thanked the team for being a leader in this work. He noted that with Onward SPPS, it will be important to report back to the Board and community in terms of how the work is moving forward, and encouraged Administration to think about the format of those future reports.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas
• Director Ward noted that he will be submitted a draft budget policy to the Policy Work Group for review, which will show the budgeting process going forward. When it is sent to the Policy Work Group team, he will also send it to the full Board and Administration for feedback.

• Director Franco echoed his earlier remarks during the Consent Agenda, and encouraged the district to continue to think about inviting outside agencies and partnerships with schools, and athletic programs, community non-profits as the ARP dollars are set to expire, and how to leverage our infrastructure to extend the school day to be supportive for students, families, and community. He noted to continue to discuss our community assets and infrastructure, including the permitting process, school-based partnerships, and conversations.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

• Director Franco provided a report on his time in community, including at high school basketball games, and uplifting our student athletes and coaches. He also provided insights into his experience at the Karen New Year, held at Washington Technology, and thanked the Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships for their work in this event. It was a beautiful display of culture.

• Director Vue provided an update on the Txuj Ci Lower Committee, and the different options discussed within the committee.

• Director Allen noted that she attended the Minnesota School Boards Association Conference. She also provided a report on a conversation between Councilmember Noecker, Director Henderson and herself about utilizing resources in the city of Saint Paul to support our young people, including sharing resources amongst the County, City, and District.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Director Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Carrillo          Yes
Director Franco           Yes
Director Valliant         Yes
Director Henderson        Yes
Director Ward             Yes
Director Vue              Yes
Director Allen            Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the original Agenda and not necessarily the time during the meeting the items were discussed.

Prepared and submitted by:
Sarah Dahlke
Assistant Clerk, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education